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Ex-Green Beret to be tried in shooting of Khadafy foe

Denver (AP)—An ex-Green Beret who contends he shot a Libyan dissident in self-defense goes on trial this week on charges of attempted murder. Prosecutors have suggested that he was acting on the order of Libyan leader Col. Moammar Khadafy's regime.

Eugene Tafoya, 47, is charged with trying to kill Faisal Zagallai, a graduate student at Colorado State University, who was shot twice in the head on Oct. 14, 1979, and as a result was blinded in one eye. Zagallai, 35, a critic of Khadafy's rule, had reported receiving death threats before the attack at his apartment.

Several Libyan dissidents were

assassinated in Europe last year.

The trial opens tomorrow at Larimer County District Court in Fort Collins, with potential witnesses including at least four CIA employees.

The trial is expected to focus on Tafoya's contention that he went to the student's home to deliver a message from the CIA for Zagallai to cease supporting the Palestine Liberation Organization. Tafoya has said he fired in self-defense when Zagallai pulled a gun on him, and the Libyan has acknowledged that he owned a pistol.

Since his arrest April 22, Tafoya has been held at the Larimer County Jail in lieu of \$500,000 bond. Requests for a reduced bond have been denied. ■